

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:DRTELLEN/IO/ML:PWKRIEBEL:SKG

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA:SSOBER

IO:SWLEWIS

S/S:RGAMBLE

EA:WGLEYSTEEN (KOREA ONLY)

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O R 300053Z JUL 76 ZFF6

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU NIACT

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 188806

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NP

SUBJECT: COLOMBO NONALIGNED SUMMIT; LETTER FROM THE
SECRETARY

1. THE SECRETARY HAS DECIDED TO SEND LETTERS TO SELECTED
FOREIGN LEADERS TO REINFORCE THEIR AWARENESS OF THE U.S.
POSITIONS ON PUERTO RICO AND KOREA. FYI: ON THE PANAMA
CANAL, WE EXPECT MOST COUNTRIES TO FOLLOW THE PANAMANIAN
LEAD, SO WE PLAN TO PURSUE THE SUBJECT DIRECTLY WITH PANAMA.
END FYI. WE ASSUME THE APPROPRIATE RECIPIENT WOULD BE
FOREIGN MINISTER ARYAL, BUT WOULD DEFER TO EMBASSY JUDGMENT
IF YOU FEEL THE LETTER SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO KING BIRENDRA.
THERE IS NO PLAN TO SEND A SIGNED ORIGINAL.

2. BEGIN TEXT. IN THE COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN OUR
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REPRESENTATIVES IN KATHMANDU AND WASHINGTON, THE UNITED

STATES HAS SET FORTH ITS CONCERNS ABOUT SEVERAL ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO US WHICH ARE LIKELY TO COME UP IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS PRIOR TO THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND AT THE ASSEMBLY ITSELF. IN VIEW OF THE APPROACHING DATE FOR THE NONALIGNED MEETINGS IN COLOMBO, AND NEPAL'S POSITION ON THE NONALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE, I WOULD LIKE PERSONALLY TO REINFORCE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON THE SUBJECTS OF PUERTO RICO AND KOREA.

ON PUERTO RICO, OUR POLICY IS BASED ON COMPLETE ACCEPTANCE OF PUERTO RICO'S RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO APPROVED THEIR CONSTITUTION AND COMMONWEALTH STATUS IN 1952 AND REAFFIRMED THAT CHOICE IN A 1967 REFERENDUM. THE UNITED NATIONS EXPLICITLY RECOGNIZED THE SELF-GOVERNING STATUS OF PUERTO RICO AND REMOVED PUERTO RICO FROM THE LIST OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES IN 1953. WE ASSURED THE UNITED NATIONS AT THAT TIME THAT, IF THE PUERTO RICAN LEGISLATURE SHOULD ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF INDEPENDENCE AT ANY TIME IN THE FUTURE, THE PRESIDENT WOULD RECOMMEND TO THE CONGRESS THAT INDEPENDENCE BE GRANTED.

IN VIEW OF THIS, DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO'S STATUS BY THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE OR THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY WOULD BE AN UNWARRANTED INTRUSION INTO THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED STATES AND PUERTO RICO. THE UNITED STATES CAME INTO POSSESSION OF VARIOUS NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS CENTURY AND EACH HAS BEEN ABLE TO CHOOSE THE COURSE IT WISHED TO FOLLOW. THE PHILIPPINES CHOSE INDEPENDENCE (1947); HAWAII, STATEHOOD; AND PUERTO RICO, A SPECIAL COMMONWEALTH RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. WHICH CONTINUES TO EVOLVE. SO LONG AS THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO WISH TO CONTINUE THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES, ANY OUTSIDE DISCUSSION OF THIS RELATIONSHIP CAN ONLY BE OFFENSIVE TO US AND THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO. I AM SURE THAT YOU WILL UNDERSTAND OUR STRONG FEELINGS IN THIS MATTER.

WITH REGARD TO KOREA, WE DO NOT, AND WE BELIEVE MOST UN MEMBERS DO NOT, WISH TO SEE THE KOREAN

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ISSUE BECOME AGAIN A WASTEFUL AND CONTENTIOUS CONTROVERSY USELESSLY DIVERTING THE ENERGIES OF THE UNGA. HOWEVER, IF IMPORTANT GROUPS WITHIN THE UN MEMBERSHIP ACCEDE TO PRESSURES TO ENDORSE THE NORTH KOREAN POSITION--SUCH AS ABOLISHING THE ARMISTICE MACHINERY OR ALTERING THE MILITARY BALANCE WHICH HAS PRESERVED PEACE FOR 23 YEARS--IT IS ALMOST INEVITABLE THAT WE WILL BE FACED WITH A CHALLENGE IN THE UNGA TO WHICH WE WILL BE OBLIGED TO

RESPOND ENERGETICALLY. FOR THIS REASON, I BELIEVE YOU WOULD DO A SERVICE TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN THAT AREA BY ADVOCATING THAT ANY STATEMENT BY THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THIS ISSUE EMPHASIZE ONLY THE NEED FOR A CONCILIATORY POSTURE BY THE PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED AND THE RESUMPTION OF THE DIALOGUE TO WHICH THEY AGREED IN 1972.

ON JULY 22 I PUBLICLY RENEWED MY PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE OF INTERESTED PARTIES ON KOREA SUGGESTING THAT IT TAKE PLACE THIS FALL AND THAT ARRANGEMENTS BE STARTED IMMEDIATELY. I HOPE YOU WILL GIVE CAREFUL AND SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO THIS PROPOSAL AS IT MAY RELATE TO FUTURE INTERNATIONAL CONSIDERATION OF THIS ISSUE. AMBASSADOR MAYTAG WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THE TEXT OF MY PROPOSAL.

SINCE THERE IS WITHIN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE UN AND THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT A WIDE RANGE OF VIEWS ON PUERTO RICO AND KOREA, I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE IN PREVENTING CONTENTIOUS POSITIONS FROM EMERGING ON EITHER ISSUE AT COMING MEETINGS, IN THE FIRST CASE BY AVOIDANCE OF THE ISSUE ALTOGETHER, AND IN THE SECOND BY THE ADVOCACY OF A CONSTRUCTIVE MINIMAL POSITION WHICH CAN BE THE BASIS FOR CONCILIATION.

I KNOW FROM LONG EXPERIENCE THAT NEPAL'S POLICY IS A HAPPY COMBINATION OF GENUINE NON-ALIGNMENT AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. I THEREFORE FEEL CONFIDENT THAT NEPAL WILL KEEP OUR INTERESTS ON THESE KEY ISSUES IN MIND AT THE UPCOMING MEETINGS.
RESPECTFULLY, HENRY A. KISSINGER. END TEXT.

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3. DEPARTMENT WISHES TO TREAT FOREGOING AS PRIVILEGED, PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN SECRETARY AND RECIPIENT. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO DISCOURAGE GON FROM RELEASE IF ISSUE IS RAISED.

KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, NONALIGNED NATIONS MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, CAT-C
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE188806
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DRTELLEEN/IO/ML:PWKRIEBEL:SKG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840093-1553
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976074/aaaaacqq.tel
Line Count: 160
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COLOMBO NONALIGNED SUMMIT: LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY
TAGS: PFOR, PREL, NP, US, UNGA, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (BIRENDRA BIR BIKRAM SHAH DEV)
To: KATHMANDU USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006